

General Petroleum Refinery Plans \$8 Million Project

New Refinery Sovaformer To Be Built

Plans for an expansion costing more than \$8,000,000 for General Petroleum's refinery were announced yesterday. The project includes a 12,000-barrel per day catalytic Sovaformer for producing high octane number gasoline components and additional gasoline fractionating and offsite facilities. The major portion of the new facilities will be constructed by the Ralph M. Parsons Co. This will be the third Sovaformer to be built in the General Petroleum refineries, and estimated completion date October, 1957.

POLICE FIRE ON CAFE BURGLARY SUSPECTS, SHOE LEFT AT SCENE

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

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Detectives Fit Shoe to Suspect

A San Pedro youth Friday admitted he was a burglar who literally was scared out of his shoes as he fled Torrance officers amid a hail of bullets earlier in the day, according to police.

Detectives said that Teddy L. Tewart, 23, made his confession after police asked him to don shoes left by a suspect who eluded them. The shoes fit perfectly.

Another San Pedroan, Billy R. Prince, 21, was arrested as a suspect accomplice of Tewart, but he denied implication in the burglary of the Skipper Inn at 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave.

Tewart assertedly admitted being the shadowy figure of officers sighted crouching behind a car parked near the burglarized cafe.

Five Shoos Fired

Ignoring police cries to halt, the suspect leaped a four-foot high barbed wire fence and fled through underbrush. After shouting warnings, Officers Russ Culverhouse, Edwin Findley and Jim Foster fired a total of five shots from their service revolvers until they lost sight of their quarry in the darkness.

Local police and officers from Redondo Beach searched the area for more than two hours but were able to find no trace of the burglar other than the shoes he lost in his haste to escape. Culverhouse injured his back when he fell while struggling through dense undergrowth.

Car Traced

The suspect made his escape in a car stolen from the driveway of the home of Ernest E. Carlstrom at 18619 Fonthill Ave.

Investigators checked the car parked by the cafe and traced the license plate number to Prince. He claimed to have loaned the car to Tewart.

Tewart allegedly claimed to have committed the burglary alone, but police said evidence at the scene indicated that two persons might have been involved.

The cafe was entered through a rear window. A juke box was broken into and some food and a case of beer were taken from a refrigerator.

Wife Leaps From Moving Car, Injured

A young housewife was injured seriously here late Wednesday when she apparently jumped from her husband's moving car, according to police.

Mrs. Charlotte Ladnier, 24, of 4524 Carmelynn St., was taken to Harbor General Hospital in Wright's Ambulance with severe bruise burns, possible fractures, and internal injuries.

Her spouse, William E. Ladnier, 26, of the local address, said she leaped from the auto along Hawthorne Ave. near Narrot St., according to officers.

Ladnier reportedly told police that he and his wife had been "arguing" while driving home from a party in Redondo Beach. He said he made a futile effort to grab Mrs. Ladnier as she plunged out the door to the pavement.

Spares Current Fad In Car Stripping Set

Taking spare wheels seems to be the current fad in the Torrance car stripper set. Lloyd Merritt of 1904 Middlebrook Rd., John I. Lowgren of 4218 W. 177th St. and Paul Ragland, of 22614 Anza Ave., each reported the loss of spares from their autos late last week. In addition to the wheel, Merritt said lights were taken from his car.

Census Starts Here Oct. 8th

A call for enumerators and crew leaders for the coming special census of Torrance went out this week from the office of City Manager George Stevens as the city was informed that the special census supervisor would be here on Oct. 8.

Firemen, Ladies Return From State Meeting

Mr. and Mrs. Walter West and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Martin represented the Torrance Fire Department and Fireladies Auxiliary as delegates and alternate delegates at the California State Firemen's Assn. annual conference held at Ukiah Sept. 19 through Sept. 23. The theme of the conference was western.

The two couples participated in a parade on Sept. 21 by riding in an open convertible with the delegates from Redondo Beach. At the dinner dance held on Sept. 22 Mrs. Walter West was awarded a trophy for the most authentic woman's western costume worn at the barbecue on the previous day.

The last meeting of the Torrance Fireladies was held on Sept. 18 at Higgins' Patio. The wives of new firemen were honored guests at a get-acquainted social. The next meeting will be held Oct. 1 at the home of Mrs. James Wass, 3252 Winlock Rd., at which time new officers for the coming year will be elected.

Do-it-Yourself Fan Makes Moonlight Buy

A thief who apparently is working on a "do-it-yourself" project removed several 2x4 boards from the Palos Verdes Riviera tract, according to police.

Carl Nordee, a guard at the project, said he saw a man pick up the lumber and drive away with it in a car Thursday.

Blood Bank Here Oct. 15

Torrance branch of American National Red Cross will hold a Bloodmobile Monday, Oct. 15, 1956, at the Civic Auditorium from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gordon Jones.

"We are accepting all possible donors as blood is always vitally needed," said Mrs. Jones. "You may register ahead of the blood bank at the local office next to the auditorium, or just drop into the bank on Oct. 15." Mrs. Jones added.

All former groups and individuals will be contacted as usual, in order to make the blood drive successful.

Water Heater Stolen

A water heater valued at \$75 was stolen from a home here building at 2417 W. 169th St., Ted Martin told police Thursday.

Continued Drinking

Karoline said they continued drinking the wine after Martinez's mother left for the evening. Later, Martinez told her to get the rifle from the closet. "Rudy told me the gun was never loaded, and I believed him," she said.

Martinez then told her to "pull the trigger because it was empty." Karoline told police, "I pulled the trigger and the gun went off and hit him in the face. I couldn't stand the blood so I ran into the front room and called for an ambulance."

When police arrived, they reported that the young girl was semi-intoxicated and semi-hysterical. She was moaning, "Don't let him die! Don't let him die! I didn't mean to do it," cried the girl at the Juvenile Bureau.

Hospital attendance reported that Martinez died at 2:50 a.m. The slug entered the front of the head below the left eye and lodged in the back of the brain.

According to her, Mrs. Martinez then gave the two youths some wine, which she reportedly permitted them to drink as

Local Teenager Held In Killing

long as they remained in the apartment.

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James Axtell, Retired Baptist Minister, Buried

The Rev. James R. Axtell, a retired Baptist minister who devoted his late years to the social service center of the Salvation Army, died here late Wednesday on his 69th birthday. He had been ill for two weeks.

Mr. Axtell was widely known among Torrance businessmen and community leaders as he made his way through the city on behalf of the Salvation Army which he had served for eight years.

Served With USO

He joined the Salvation Army after 35 years as a Baptist minister. He served out his pastorate in a 14-year assignment with the Community Baptist Church in Hermosa Beach before his retirement in 1945. During the war he worked with servicemen through the USO.

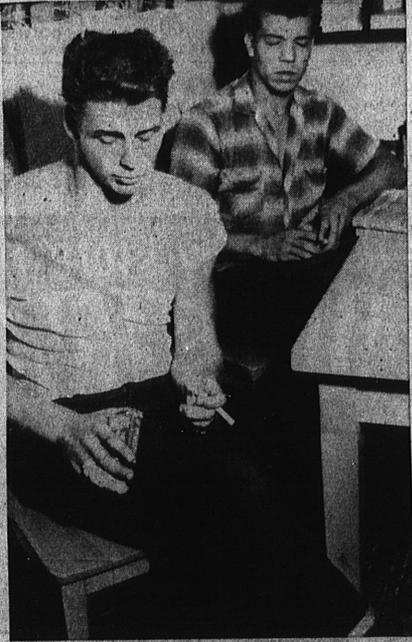
Mr. Axtell attended school in Wisconsin and was graduated from Northwestern University in Illinois. He served pastorates there and in Wisconsin before coming to California.

Remained Active

The retired minister remained active until very recently despite his affliction with Parkinson's disease. He is survived by his widow, Edna, at 2862 Pinckard Ave., Redondo.

Besides his widow he is survived by two sons, Robert W. of Phoenix and James R. of Racine, Wis.; a daughter, Mrs. Glyndon Peterson of Redondo; 10 grandchildren, and nine brothers and sisters. Mrs. Peterson is employed at the Torrance office of the State Department of Employment.

Funeral services were conducted at Stone & Myers Mortuary Chapel here yesterday afternoon by Dr. Gunnar C. Emanuel and Rev. Richard L. Parker. Interment was in Pacific Crest Cemetery.



THE SHOE FIT ONE . . . Teddy L. Tewart, 23 (left), and Billy R. Prince, 24, sit glumly following their arrest on suspicion of burglarizing a cafe at 190th and Hawthorne. A shoe found at the scene after a suspect fled fit Tewart like Cinderella's slipper.

Commission Asks Survey of Parks

A formal request that the city employ the services of a professional park planner to survey the city for future park development was voted unanimously Wednesday night by the Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission.

After hearing about a dozen residents of the area express views on what residents desired in the way of parks, the Commission adopted a recommendation made the previous evening by Councilman Victor Benstead that the expert be hired.

Residents speaking to the commission's requested consideration for tennis courts, little theater facilities, meeting rooms for service clubs, swings and play equipment, picnic areas, youth centers, softball fields, and studio space for amateur artists.

Lad, Cyclist Injured in Area Crashes

A seven-year-old boy and a motorcyclist suffered possible serious injuries in two accidents reported to Torrance police on Friday.

The lad, Jerry Baldelli, of 24228 Ward St., was taken to a private physician by his parents for treatment of a possible fractured left arm after he was struck by an auto in front of 24236 Ward St.

The motorist, Glenn Hardcastle, 33, of 24403 Ward St., said the youngster dashed into the street and into the path of the auto. The driver was not cited.

Carroll McCracken, 23, of 12255 Cota Ave., was taken by Wright's Ambulance to the Torrance Emergency Hospital with possible internal injuries after his two-wheeler was involved in a collision with an auto at Torrance Blvd. and Arlington Ave.



PANCAKE WINNERS . . . Aunt Jemima (right) and Jay Barrington, Kiwanis Club vice president, congratulate winners of the pancake race here yesterday. Winners (left to right) were Mrs. Lilly Ward, 3228 Winlock, first; Mrs. Ladorna Means, 21735 Dewey, second, and Mrs. Alicia Walpole, 5624 Riviera Way, third. The race was held in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club Pancake breakfast.

Pair Injured In Crash of Train, Auto

A north Torrance aircraft worker and his passenger escaped serious injury this week when their auto tangled with a diesel locomotive on 182nd St. near Firmona Ave. in the El Nido area.

Anthony S. Lenze, 37, a leadman at North American Aviation, who lives at 4041 W. 183rd St., was taken to Harbor General Hospital where he was treated and released. His passenger, Michael Berdine, 16, of the same address, suffered minor injuries.

The auto driven by Lenze was dragged 171 feet by the train of 22 cars. Engineer Louis P. Piffi, of West Coast, said he tried to halt the train when he noticed the car was apparently heading into the path of the locomotive, but that he was unable to stop quickly enough. He said the engine whistle was being sounded at the time.

The car received considerable damage to the front and right side.

Vandal Makes Mess, Fails In Arson Try

A vandal failed in an arson attempt but succeeded in making a sticky mess of the trailer home of Chester Costner at 21739 Western Ave., police reported Friday.

Costner told investigators that the intruder smashed a table model radio and an electric shaver to flinders. Then a bottle of syrup was poured over the pieces and about the trailer.

The culprit attempted to drench the trailer by igniting water fluid dribbled about the interior. However, the flames apparently went out and only covers on a bed were scorched, according to officers.

Costner said the mess was discovered by his 10-year-old son when the boy returned to the unlocked trailer from school.

Member of State Commission to Meet Committee

Robert E. McClure, Santa Monica publisher and member of the California Highway Commission will speak to members of the South Bay Cities Highway Committee at their regular October meeting, Oct. 11, it was announced yesterday by Councilman Nick Draie, member of the committee.

Committee officials have asked McClure to outline the schedule for construction of the San Diego Freeway and other state projects in the areas which include the South Bay cities. Members of the committee represent Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, and Palos Verdes.

Resident 42 Years Dies

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Stone and Myers Chapel at 10 a.m. for Melissa Leone Walker, a resident of this city for 42 years, who died at her home at 2375 W. 231st St. Friday.

The Rev. Howard Rosine of the Wayside Chapel will officiate, interment will be private at Green Hills Memorial Park.

A native of Colorado, Mrs. Walker had lived at her 231st St. address for the past 42 years.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Stella Howard, of Palos Verdes Estates; two sons, Jack Walker, 3858 Greenbrier Rd., Long Beach; and Wilfred Walker, Taft Calif. She also leaves a sister, Stelle Arbuthnot, Arroyo Grande and a brother, Fred Arbuthnot, Boulder, Colo., and five grandchildren.

Douglas Honors Worker W. G. Richards, 1937 Greenwood Ave., has been presented with a gold pin commemorating 15 years of service with Douglas Aircraft Co. Richards is employed at the Torrance facility of the firm.